

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

---

JOHN DOE,	:	CASE NO. 1:20-cv-1002
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
vs.	:	ORDER
	:	
JANE DOE,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

---

JAMES S. GWIN, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

On March 12, 2020, Plaintiff John Doe sued Defendant Jane Doe in the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas.<sup>1</sup> On May 8, 2020, Defendant removed the case to this Court.<sup>2</sup>

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 10 requires complaints to state the parties' names.<sup>3</sup> Only in limited circumstances may a court permit the parties to proceed pseudonymously.<sup>4</sup> Unless the parties seek this permission, however, federal courts lack jurisdiction over the unnamed parties.<sup>5</sup> Here, neither party has requested permission to proceed under pseudonyms.

The Court hereby ORDERS both parties to file briefing on whether they can proceed anonymously. Both parties' briefs are due within seven calendar days.

---

<sup>1</sup> Doc. [1-1](#).

<sup>2</sup> Doc. [1](#).

<sup>3</sup> Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(a); see *Doe v. Porter*, 370 F.3d 558, 560 (6th Cir. 2004) ("As a general matter, a complaint must state the names of all parties.").

<sup>4</sup> *Doe v. Porter*, 370 F.3d 558, 560 (6th Cir. 2004) (listing circumstances which may warrant pseudonymous litigation).

<sup>5</sup> *Nat'l Commodity & Barter Ass'n, Nat'l Commodity Exch. V. Gibbs*, 886 F.2d 1240, 1245 (10th Cir. 1989); see also *Citizens for a Strong Ohio v. Marsh*, 123 F. App'x 630, 637 (6th Cir. 2005) (citing *Nat'l Commodity*, 866 F.2d at 1245).

Case Nos. 1:20-cv-1002  
Gwin, J.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Dated: June 3, 2020

*s/ James S. Gwin*  
JAMES S. GWIN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE